

Message Text

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INFO HQ USAF WASHDC (CVFL)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 14227

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP EG US

SUBJ: GENERAL GAMASY'S VISIT TO U.S.

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE AND DATT HAD HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH GENERAL GAMASY MORNING JUNE 3, MAJOR PART OF WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO REVIEWING HIS SCHEDULE IN U.S. GAMASY IS BASICALLY SATISFIED WITH SCHEDULE AS IT STANDS, BUT HOPES THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME FOR HIM TO RENEW HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH AMERICA AND TO ENJOY ITS CITIES, SCENERY AND PEOPLE. HE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO APPEAR ON "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" PROGRAM AND EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THIS EVENT IS BEING CANCELLED BY EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. GAMASY LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETINGS WITH SECDEF AND OTHER SENIOR USG OFFICIALS INCLUDING CONGRESS, HOPES TO SEE AIRMOBILE DEMONSTRATION AT FORT BRAFF, IS EAGER TO SEE WEST COAST AND ESPECIALLY SAN FRANCISCO FOR FIRST TIME, BUT RECOGNIZES SCHEDULE DIFFICULTY IN TRYING TO VISIT ARMY WAR COLLEGE AT CARLISLE, PA. SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS HE WANTS TO DISCUSS INCLUDE GENERAL REVIEW OF SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, F-5 AND C-130 PROGRAMS, AND IMET. GAMASY WISHES TO SIGN LOA FOR F-5'S DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

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2. DATT WILL BE COMMUNICATING SPECIFIC ITEMS DISCUSSED WITH GENERAL GAMASY JUNE 3 ABOUT HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO U.S., BUT THIS MESSAGE MAY GIVE USEFUL FLAVOR OF MINWAR'S HOPES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR HIS VISIT.

3. I BEGAN BY SAYING I HAD HEARD GENERAL GAMASY MIGHT

FEEL HIS SCHEDULE WAS TOO TIGHT WITH NO TIME TO SEE AMERICA AND ITS PEOPLE. GAMASY ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD FELT THIS WAY INITIALLY, RECOGNIZING THAT MILITARY MEN TRADITIONALLY WORKED UP SCHEDULES THAT TOOK CARE OF EVERY MINUTE OF THE DAY. HOWEVER, AFTER REVIEWING SCHEDULE WITH EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE GENERAL GEHZALA AND MAKING SOME APPROPRIATE CHANGES, HE NOW FELT THAT IT WAS GOOD. HE NOTED HE WOULD BE FIRST EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF WAR TO VISIT U.S. AND HE WAS ANXIOUS TO LEARN AS MUCH FROM HIS TRIP AS POSSIBLE. DURING HIS EARLIER STAY IN U.S. HE HAD SEEN ONLY THE EAST -- NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, WASHINGTON AND GEORGIA, AND WAS THEREFORE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE WEST AND ESPECIALLY SAN FRANCISCO, ABOUT WHICH HE HAD HEARD SO MUCH.

4. GAMASY WAS KEENLY INTERESTED IN HIS MEETING WITH SECDEF AND ASKED WHETHER WE HAD INDICATION OF WHAT SUBJECTS MIGHT ARISE. I SAID I WAS SURE THERE WERE SPECIFIC MATTERS CONCERNING OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH EGYPT TO BE REVIEWED (SUCH AS THE F-5, C-130 AND IMET PROGRAMS), BUT I THOUGHT MEETING WAS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW OF WORLD SITUATION WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. GENERAL GAMASY ENTHUSIASTICALLY AGREED WITH LATTER POINT AND SAID HE WAS WORKING OUT A PRESENTATION ON MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA FOR DISCUSSION WITH SECDEF AND ALSO FOR
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APPEARANCE AT NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY. (SEPTEL REPORTS DISCUSSION ON F-5 PROGRAM, BUT IT SHOULD BE NOTED HERE THAT GAMASY WANTS AND EXPECTS TO SIGN LOA FOR F-5'S DURING WASHINGTON VISIT.)

5. DATT REVIEWED FOR GENERAL GAMASY FORMAT OF HIS MEETING AT NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY, INCLUDING FACT THAT AUDIENCE WOULD NOT BE STUDENTS BUT FACULTY AND SENIOR U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN HEARING GAMASY'S VIEWS. MINWAR RECALLED WITH PLEASURE HIS SEVERAL MEETINGS HERE WITH NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE GROUPS AND SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS EVENT. GAMASY WAS SIMILARLY ANXIOUS TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, MANY OF WHOM HE ALREADY KNOWS FROM THEIR VISITS TO EGYPT.

6. WE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE APPEARANCE ON "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" TV PROGRAM AND GAMASY READILY AGREED THAT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR HIM.

7. ON REMAINDER OF SCHEDULE GAMASY IS PLEASED AT PROSPECT OF VISIT TO AIR FORCE ACADEMY, CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN AND FORT BRAGG, WHERE HE VERY MUCH HOPES THAT AIRMOBILE

DEMONSTRATION WILL BE PUT ON FOR HIM. HE SHOWED NO
DESIRE TO TRY TO INCLUDE VISIT TO CARLISLE BARRACKS.

8. MINWAR ASKED OUR ADVICE ON WHETHER HE SHOULD USE
INTERPRETER DURING SOME OF HIS MORE FORMAL SESSIONS,
EXPLAINING THAT HE MIGHT NOT CATCH THE MEANING OF SOME
OF OUR MODERN SLANG AND NOT BE ABLE TO EXPRESS EXACTLY
WHAT HE MEANT IN ENGLISH. I SAID I THOUGHT HIS ENGLISH
WAS EXCELLENT AND THAT FLAVOR OF HIS PERSONALITY AND IDEAS
CAME ACROSS QUITE READILY. I SUGGESTED HE HAVE INTERPRETER
PRESENT TO HANDLE ANY QUESTIONS WHICH WERE NOT CLEAR
TO HIM, BUT THAT HE PLAN TO CONDUCT HIS DIALOGUES IN
ENGLISH. GAMASY AGREED AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BRING
INTERPRETER WITH HIM.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 14227

9. GENERAL GAMASY EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT BOTH GENERALS
SVENSEN AND PFAUTZ WOULD ESCORT HIM DURING VISIT AND SAID
HE WAS HAPPY THERE WOULD BE FAMILIAR FACES TO WHOM HE
COULD TURN.

10. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT GENERAL GAMASY'S 22-YEAR-OLD
DAUGHTER, MAGDA MOHAMED ABDEL GHANI EL GAMASY, WILL
TRAVEL WITH HIM AS FAR AS WASHINGTON AND PROBABLY RETURN

TO CAIRO WITH HIM. AMBASSADOR GHORBAL'S, DAUGHTER
AND HER HUSBAND WILL ALSO BE ON PLANE TO WASHINGTON.

11. GENERAL GAMASY DEPARTS FOR PARIS AT 9:00 AM MONDAY,
JUNE 5, WILL REMAIN OVERNIGHT AND ARRIVE AT ANDREWS
AIR FORCE BASE AS SCHEDULED AT 4:00 PM JUNE 6. HE WILL BE
TRAVELING IN THE PRESIDENTIAL BOEING 707. I WILL SEE
HIM OFF.

1. COMMENT: GAMASY SEEMS GENUINELY TO BE LOOKING
FORWARD TO HIS VISIT AND HIS EARLIER QUALMS ABOUT BEING
OVERSCHEDULED HAVE BEEN ALLAYED. URGE THAT WE BE
PREPARED TO MOVE AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN FINALIZING F-5
LOA AND ALSO THAT AIRMOBILE DEMONSTRATION BE ARRANGED
AT FORT BRAGG. GAMASY'S VISIT IS ALSO OPPORTUNITY FOR
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SENIOR USG OFFICIALS TO REVIEW OUR EVOLVING POLICY ON
AFRICA, IN WHICH GAMASY (AND PRESIDENT SADAT) IS
VERY INTERESTED. MATTHEWS

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